



DONALD L. WOLFE, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
<http://www.dpw.lacounty.gov>

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

March 13, 2007

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: PD-5

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**DASH BOYLE HEIGHTS ROUTE EXTENSION TO EAST LOS ANGELES
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 1
3 VOTES**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the route extension of DASH Boyle Heights to East Los Angeles is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
2. Authorize the Director of Public Works, or his designee, to negotiate and execute a cooperative financial Agreement with the City of Los Angeles to provide for this route extension.
3. Authorize the Director of Public Works, or his designee, to disburse up to \$210,000 annually to the City of Los Angeles from the First Supervisorial District's Proposition A Local Return Transit Program to finance the County's share of the operating costs of the route extension to East Los Angeles, beginning March 18, 2007, until March 17, 2009.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Metro plans to discontinue Metro Line No. 255 on March 17, 2007. Metro Line No. 255 provides a direct connection between the East Los Angeles Doctor's Hospital and the County University of Southern California Medical Center.

Public Works has been working with the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) to implement a cooperatively-financed replacement service to Metro Line No. 255. The City proposes to extend its existing DASH Boyle Heights route to Whittier Boulevard in East Los Angeles. The DASH service would benefit East Los Angeles residents with both increased frequency and lower bus fare. The route extension of the DASH Boyle Heights to East Los Angeles will operate on a 20-minute frequency and have a \$0.25 fare for the general public, \$0.10 for senior citizens (65 years of age or older) and persons with disabilities, and free for children four years of age and younger when accompanied by a fare paying adult. The route extension serves two regional medical destinations, the East Los Angeles Doctor's Hospital and the County University of Southern California Medical Center. The DASH route also provides patrons with convenient connections to the County's El Sol Shuttle Service.

The County, City, and Metro have been discussing the amount of funding assistance available for replacing Metro Line No. 255. Metro indicates that the DASH Boyle Heights route extension will be eligible for Metro's Formula Allocation Program funds. Based on the route mileage within each jurisdiction, the County's jurisdictional share will be approximately 50 percent of the net operating costs (operating cost minus Formula Allocation Program funds, Metro Pass fare reimbursements, and cash fares). The County's maximum annual contribution will be \$210,000 for each of the first two years of operation for this expanded service.

Your Board's action will allow for replacement of Metro Line No. 255 with the DASH Boyle Heights route extension with no interruption in service.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action meets the County Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence by providing a seamless transition to a new transit service. This action will avoid any service disruption to transit dependent seniors, persons with disabilities, students, and the general public currently using Metro Line No. 255.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The maximum annual County funding contribution for the DASH Boyle Heights route extension is \$210,000. The necessary funds are available from the First Supervisorial District's Proposition A Local Return Transit Program in the Fiscal Year 2006-07 Transit Enterprise Fund Budget and will be included in our budget recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2007-08 Transit Enterprise Fund Budget. There will be no impact on net County cost.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The proposed Agreement will provide for the City to expand its DASH Boyle Heights service to replace the existing service on Metro Line No. 255 and to invoice the County for the County's jurisdictional share of the net operating cost incurred in operating the service over the next two years, up to a maximum of \$210,000 annually. The Agreement will be reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel prior to execution by the Director of Public Works, or his designee.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

This service is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080 (b) (10) under transportation related projects.


IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The DASH Boyle Heights route extension will provide for a seamless transition for East Los Angeles residents currently using the existing Metro Line No. 255 service with no interruption in service.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval, please return two adopted copies of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,


DONALD L. WOLFE
Director of Public Works

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cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel